

What is Claimed:

1. A data management system for automatically maintaining address information in user address books, comprising:

means for storing a set of address book data for each of a plurality of subscribers, each said set of address book data comprising data which contains a plurality of entries, each entry corresponding to a named individual;

means for storing a set of individual address data, including address data, for each of said individuals listed in each of said address books; and

means, responsive to a change in a set of individual address data associated with an identified individual, for propagating said change to sets of address book data which contain an entry corresponding to said identified individual.

2. The data management system of claim 1 wherein said means for propagating comprises:

means for storing data to delimit which ones of said sets of address book data, which contain an entry corresponding to said identified individual, are authorized to receive said change to sets of address book data.

3. The data management system of claim 2 wherein said means for propagating further comprises:

means for defining groups of sets of address book data, which contain an entry corresponding to said identified individual, that are authorized to receive said change to sets of address book data.

4. The data management system of claim 1 wherein said individual address data is divided into a plurality of access levels, said means for propagating comprises:

means for storing access level data to delimit which ones of said sets of address book data are authorized to receive said change to sets of address book data.

5. The data management system of claim 4 wherein said means for propagating further comprises:

means for defining groups of sets of address book data, which contain an entry corresponding to said identified individual, that are authorized to receive said change to sets of address book data.

6. The data management system of claim 1 further comprising:

means for retrieving data from a public database to verify a set of individual address data associated with an identified individual.

7. The data management system of claim 6 further comprising:

means, responsive to said means for retrieving identifying a change in data in said set of individual address data associated with an identified individual, for activating said means for propagating.

8. A method of operating a data management system for automatically maintaining address information in user address books, comprising the steps of:

storing a set of address book data for each of a plurality of subscribers, each said set of address book data comprising data which contains a plurality of entries, each entry corresponding to a named individual;

storing a set of individual address data, including address data, for each of said individuals listed in each of said address books; and

propagating, in response to a change in a set of individual address data associated with an identified individual, said change to sets of address book data which contain an entry corresponding to said identified individual.

9. The method of operating a data management system of claim 8 wherein said step of propagating comprises:

storing data to delimit which ones of said sets of address book data, which

contain an entry corresponding to said identified individual, are authorized to receive said change to sets of address book data.

10. The method of operating a data management system of claim 9 wherein said step of propagating further comprises:

defining groups of sets of address book data, which contain an entry corresponding to said identified individual, that are authorized to receive said change to sets of address book data.

11. The method of operating a data management system of claim 8 wherein said individual address data is divided into a plurality of access levels, said step of propagating comprises:

storing access level data to delimit which ones of said sets of address book data are authorized to receive said change to sets of address book data.

12. The method of operating a data management system of claim 11 wherein said step of propagating further comprises:

defining groups of sets of address book data, which contain an entry corresponding to said identified individual, that are authorized to receive said change to sets of address book data.

13. The method of operating a data management system of claim 8 further comprising the step of:

retrieving data from a public database to verify a set of individual address data associated with an identified individual.

14. The method of operating a data management system of claim 13 further comprising:

activating, in response to said step of retrieving identifying a change in data in

said set of individual address data associated with an identified individual, said step of propagating.

5 15. A data management system for automatically maintaining user data among a plurality of communities, each of which contains a plurality of members, comprising:

means for storing a set of community membership data for each of a plurality of communities, each said set of community membership data comprising data which contains a plurality of entries, each entry corresponding to a named individual;

means for storing a set of individual member data for each of said individuals listed in each of said plurality of communities; and

means for providing a user with access to a set of individual member data of an identified individual.

15 16. The data management system of claim 15 further comprising:
means, responsive to a change in individual member data, for propagating said change to all of the identified associated communities of interest for said member.

20 17. The data management system of claim 16 further comprising:
means for defining a set of data sharing permissions, each of which define access by a community to a subset of the member's data; and
means for sharing said individual member data among predetermined members of each community who are identified by said set of permissions.

25 18. The data management system of claim 16 further comprising:
means for retrieving data from a public database to verify a set of individual member data associated with an identified individual.

19. The data management system of claim 18 further comprising:

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means, responsive to said means for retrieving identifying a change in data in said set of individual member data associated with an identified individual, for activating said means for propagating.

5 20. The data management system of claim 17 further comprising:
means, responsive to a set of individual member data of an identified individual, for generating at least one gift giving selection for said identified individual.

10 21. The data management system of claim 20 further comprising:
means, responsive to a user approving at least one of said gift giving selections for said identified individual, for fulfilling said gift giving selection.

15 22. The data management system of claim 21 wherein said means for fulfilling comprises:
means for transmitting said gift giving selection to a third party vendor.

20 23. The data management system of claim 20 wherein said means for generating comprises:
means for retrieving gift giving selection data from a third party vendor;
means for displaying images illustrative of gift giving selections; and
means, responsive to a user approving at least one of said gift giving selections for said identified individual, for fulfilling said gift giving selection.

25 24. A method of operating a data management system for automatically maintaining user data among a plurality of communities, each of which contains a plurality of members, comprising the steps of:

storing a set of community membership data for each of a plurality of communities, each said set of community membership data comprising data which

contains a plurality of entries, each entry corresponding to a named individual;
storing a set of individual member data for each of said individuals listed in
each of said plurality of communities; and
providing a user with access to a set of individual member data of an identified
5 individual.

25. The method of operating a data management system of claim 24 further
comprising the step of:

propagating, in response to a change in individual member data, said change
to all of the identified associated communities of interest for said member.

26. The method of operating a data management system of claim 25 further
comprising the steps of:

defining a set of data sharing permissions, each of which define access by a
community to a subset of the member's data; and

sharing said individual member data among predetermined members of each
community who are identified by said set of permissions.

27. The method of operating a data management system of claim 25 further
comprising the step of:

retrieving data from a public database to verify a set of individual member data
associated with an identified individual.

28. The method of operating a data management system of claim 27 further
comprising the step of:

activating, in response to said step of retrieving identifying a change in data in
said set of individual member data associated with an identified individual, for said
step of propagating.

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29. The method of operating a data management system of claim 26 further comprising the step of:

generating, in response to a set of individual member data of an identified individual, at least one gift giving selection for said identified individual.

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30. The method of operating a data management system of claim 29 further comprising the step of:

fulfilling, in response to a user approving at least one of said gift giving selections for said identified individual, said gift giving selection.

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31. The method of operating a data management system of claim 30 wherein said step of fulfilling comprises:

transmitting said gift giving selection to a third party vendor.

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32. The method of operating a data management system of claim 29 wherein said step of generating comprises:

retrieving gift giving selection data from a third party vendor;

displaying images illustrative of gift giving selections; and

20 fulfilling, in response to a user approving at least one of said gift giving selections for said identified individual, said gift giving selection. .